

A 1609/947

Letter to the Printer;

WITH

A Letter to the Freeholders of
Oxfordshire.

CONTAINING,

Some few Candid REMARKS on a
NEW PAMPHLET,

INTITLED,

An Address to the Freeholders

OF THE

COUNTY of *OXFORD.*

OXFORD,

Printed: And sold by the Booksellers in Town
and Country; and may be had of the Men
who carry the *Oxford Journal*, 1753.

[Price FOUR-PENCE.]

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O X F O R D


Printed and sold by the Freeholders in Town

and Country: and printed by J. G. B. at the

Printers of the Oxford Press, 1793.

By the Freeholders





A

Letter to the Printer.

Mr. Jackson,

FROM the first Publication of your Journal, I have every Week entertain'd myself with the perusal of it; and to do you Justice, must acknowledge, you have publish'd the *Wit, Humour, Reasoning* of the Gentlemen of the *Old Interest*, as well as the *Abuse, Falsehood, Scurrility* of those of the *New*, with an equal Spirit and Impartiality: On reading some *extraordinary* Performances of the *New Interest* in some of your late Papers, I could not forbear looking back into the many Pieces this *Opposition of theirs* hath occasion'd, and amongst others have met with a small Four-penny Pamphlet, call'd, *An Address to the Freeholders of the County of Oxford.*

As this Address has been hitherto
very slightly regarded, I have *for the*
Sake of Truth, ventur'd to commu-
nicate a few Remarks on it, and by
giving them a Place in your next
Journal, you will oblige

Your constant Reader,

Burford,

1753.

D. G.

P. S. If you think these Remarks
either too long, or too dull to be in-
serted in your Journal, prithee print
them by themselves, and without
the least Consideration of Old Inte-
rest, or New Interest, apply them
solely to *Self-Interest*.

A



A
A

Letter to the Freeholders of
Oxfordshire, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

THE *abovemention'd Address* is at once most familiarly introduced to you with the following bold Assertion, or *Aspersion*; and says,

“ The Nomination on the 15th
 “ Instant of L---d P----- and Sir E---
 “ T----- to represent the County of
 “ Oxford in Parliament, was made
 “ unanimously, in a larger Meeting
 “ of the landed Interest, than per-
 “ haps was ever assembled to prepare
 “ the Way for an Election that was
 “ likely to be contested,-----an Ho-
 “ nour justly paid to Gentlemen of
 “ their distinguished Rank and Pro-
 “ perty, of acknowledg'd Good-sense,
 “ So-

“ Sobriety, Probity, and Religion,
 “ and sincere Attachment to his Ma-
 “ jesty King George, and to the e-
 “ stablish’d Government in Church,
 “ and State.”

You see, Gentlemen, the *Irregularity* of this Meeting on the 15th Instant, and the *unconstitutional Method* by which it was conducted are not mentioned ; yet, *irregular* it was, as at a prior Meeting the Opinion, and *Sense* of the County had put in Nomination L---d W-----, and Sir J---D----- ; and *Unconstitutional* it was, as it was managed, and directed by, and absolutely under the Influence of a *great Number* of P---rs there, and then present. These *reasonable Objections* the Author passes by unnoticed, and lays his main Stress on the landed Interest of the Persons who composed this Meeting, and on the many private and publick Virtues of L---d P-----, and Sir E---d T----- . And although, by this Eulogium, he does not directly, and openly



openly assert, that L---d W---- and Sir J---- D----- are not so well qualified as are L---d P-----, and Sir E---- T----, to represent you, I fear, he is covertly solicitous to impose thus much on you, is *unjustly* labouring to make you think *thus meanly* of them, and of Consequence to make you think *much worse* of them than they deserve. However, that you may form a right Judgment, and become thoroughly acquainted with the Characters of L— W— and Sir J— D— (the two Gentlemen who have been *regularly* and *constitutionally* nominated) divest yourself of all *Party-Prejudice*, throw off those *idle Impressions* which the present Rancour of their, or rather of *your Adversaries* may have stamped on your Minds: *Canvass* them in your Turns, and assuredly you shall find them so *fitly qualified* for the Service, they now offer to undertake for you, that you will all readily and zealously combine in their Support. You will observe,
that

that when this Author speaks of the *Landed Interest* of the Meeting on the 15th Instant, he there makes use of the Word, *perhaps*, so that what he has advanced on that Article, may *perhaps be false*; nay, on *Examination*, will appear *certainly to be so*.

We are next told that Sir E— T— has acted as a *Justice of the Peace*. If he has, and has acted properly, he has in that *Single, and particular Instance*, acted well: We are told also, that L—d P— will, *like his noble Father*, exert a laudable Zeal for an impartial *Administration* of Justice: Very well, but what then? What is this to the Point? Must you from thence conclude, that He, and Sir E— T— are the only fit Persons to represent you in Parliament? No surely, for you will all of you most easily perceive, that these Arguments are very inconclusive, and will readily find out other Gentlemen full as deserving, and far more *eligible*; nay, so just, so very Equitable is their Claim, that he

he who doubts, or disbelieves in this Article, must be not only a Jew, a very Jew, but he must be a *New Jew*, a Jew of very *modern Growth* and *Transplanting*.

In the next Place, this Pamphleteer presents you with the Year 1745; he tells you, that a *few Persons* in the County of Oxford then entered into an *Association*, the D. of M. L--- H---, L--- M---, &c. &c. &c. and that L---d P--- would have joined them, had he not been abroad. You are here also asked, what the Gentlemen of the Old Interest did on *that Occasion*; I will tell you what they *then did*; they each of them attended their respective Duties, whether publick or private; they waited the *Commands of his Majesty*, strictly adhered to the *Laws of their Country*, and pursued every Step, which they thought correspondent and agreeable to that *Constitution*, to which they are most firmly *attached*, and for the Preservation of which, they will

at all Times exert themselves with a most *truly British* Courage, and Resolution. Moreover, enquire, ask of *those Gentlemen* who so plausibly then formed *that Assembly* for an Association, whether their Assembly was not as crowded as their Hopes could suggest? Whether notice of that Meeting was so universally spread thro' out the County as to give them *much Reason* to expect, it would consist of more than of those *few Persons*, who did attend it? Whether Oxford was not at that Time much infected with the *Small-Pox*? And lastly, whether they did not afterwards rejoice, at their Hearts, at the glorious Opportunity, that Transaction might *one Day* afford them, of pleading from thence that Merit, of which they so liberally *at this Season* boast, and on which they now so *very nobly* plume themselves?

The next Paragraph contains an Enquiry “ Whether the Old Inter-
“ est implies some extraordinary
“ Merit,

“ Merit, and whether the Gentle-
 “ men concerned in it, have any
 “ peculiar Qualifications to recom-
 “ mend them to the favour of their
 “ Country.”

In answer to which, I shall be da-
 ring enough to affirm, that they are
Masters of extraordinary Merit ; that
 they have acted on Principles which
have contributed, and, if pursued,
must in times to come contribute
largely to the Service of your parti-
 cular County, and to Great Britain
 in general ; for they have *ever act-*
ed justly, independently, constitutionally :
 These are, Gentlemen, *peculiar Qua-*
lifications, and should be *peculiar Re-*
commendations to your favour at the
 present Juncture.

“ Are the Gentlemen of the Old
 “ Interest the Friends of Old Eng-
 “ land ? But have they no Love for
 “ Present England ?” Are the next
 Questions this Pamphlet-Querist
 thinks proper to ask. — Yes, they
 are Friends to Old England, and

to present England, as he *elegantly* terms it.

They are zealous Advocates for her Liberties, her Rights, her Privileges; they are Friends *to Kings*, and to *kingly Government*; are Friends to *the Peers*, and to *the Commons*; are happy, most happy! when they behold the Government well administered; they have Spirit enough to oppose an Administration, when they think *Opposition necessary*, and can persist in *such Opposition*, although this Pamphlet-Writer shall again call it *inveterate*: Since they know, that they *act thus* from a real Affection to Monarchy, from a real Affection to their Royal Master, and to their Country.

The next Passage, I shall remark, is what follows; “ But perhaps these
“ Gentlemen flatter themselves you
“ can believe, that they act thus
“ upon the sole Principle of Disin-
“ terestedness.”

You

You have many and cogent Reasons to believe they do so, and however despicably this Author may treat the Word, *Disinterestedness*, it surely conveys not one, but a Groupe of most noble Ideas; it is Honesty, it is Justice, it is publick, it is private Virtue;—it is a *Virtue* these Gentlemen may *very amply* be possessed of, and yet *object* very consistently to L---d P—— and to Sir E—— T——, that they are *recommended*, and *supported* by Courtiers.

After this the Author pursues so broken a Chain of un-linked No-reasoning, talks of Persons in the Reign of *Charles I. Charles II.* the latter Part of that of good Queen *Anne*, the Administration of Lord *Oxford*; and has introduced Matter so *very impertinent* to his Subject, that (although my first Intention was to have left it unremarked, and to your own perusal in the Pamphlet) you must here give me leave to inform you, that some Good may be extracted
even

even from *this Trass* of his, and that, by reflecting a little, you will perceive, that, if, in those Reigns, and in the Administration abovementioned, it is apparent, that *Electors* have been deceived, and mistaken in the Choice of *their Representatives*, it certainly behoves you to be most careful, most delicate, most circumspect *at the present Time* to elect Persons of *known Fidelity*, and of *tried Worth*; of *independent Fortunes*, of *independent Principles*, of *old Families*, and of *long Attachment to yourselves and to your County*. Persons whose *faithful Services* have already rendered them *respectable*, and whose *future Conduct* will assuredly *do Honour* to your Choice, and make your Judgments *meritoriously conspicuous*: Persons of *such Veracity*, of *such Humanity*, so attached to *Truth*, so connected with *Justice*, that they would neither utter a *Falsehood* to the Prejudice of *their Opponents*, nor exert *one single Act* of *Severity* towards the *meanest Freeholder*.

Nay

Nay farther, be watchful that you elect Persons, well attached to *Church*, as well as *State*; whose religious as well as *Political* Sentiments intitle them to the Denomination of good * *old Christians*, as well as good *old Englishmen*: For as these Precautions, Gentlemen, are *very important*, so are they *very seasonable*; and if duly attended to, must be highly conducive to the *Publick Utility*.

He next speaks of rebuilding the Town-Hall at Oxford, and although he allows some Merit to the Generosity and Bounty of Mr. *Rowney*, who is a *Friend to the Old Interest*; yet his Party-Rage cannot forbear shewing itself by a notorious Falsehood, and a most flagrant Misrepresentation of that Point; and to convince yourself of this, make Enquiry, whether the Friends of the Old

* The Jews are in *Portugal* called New Christians, and as justly may in *Great Britain* be applied the same Appellation to all their Friends, Aiders, Abettors, &c.

or the New Interest were *most early* in their Subscriptions towards that Building; enquire too, whether there were not *Instances* of particular Persons *now attached* to the New Interest, who openly declared they never would subscribe to it: For let *this Writer* alledge what he will, you may *assure* yourselves, that, had the Subscription towards that Building been carried on, you would have seen at least as much Money collected from the Generosity and Bounty of the Gentlemen of the Old Interest, as from those who at present are so warm in the support of an Interest, which is *quite New*, and till now *unheard* of amongst us.

The next Passage in this Author is sufficiently taken Notice of, in what I have said on the Year, 1745.

He afterwards proceeds thus:

“ The last Artifice to amuse you,
 “ which is thought worth while
 “ to take notice of, is the Peace of
 “ the

“ the County, which, they say, is
 “ disturbed by this Competition.”

Most certainly the Peace of the County is *at present* disturbed, and to the *New Interest* is the County obliged for *this Disturbance*; they are *undoubtedly* the *Disturbers*: Yet let this Competition be but *legally* conducted, let *no Influence* be employed, but such as is *truly Constitutional*, such as is truly and uniformly pertinent, and agreeable to the Rights of the *Commons*, and of the *Freeholders* of Great Britain, even down to the *very lowest of them*; and we shall then see, that this Disturbance will be patiently born, and that *its Weight* will occasion neither future Murmurs, nor future Complaints.

This Writer, from hence to the Conclusion of his Address, utters the common, trite, and worn-out Abuse of your having been *slighted* and *neglected*; he talks of the Honours of the County, says that the Gentlemen of the Old Interest have enjoy-

ed them long enough, and that these *New Gentlemen*, these *H—ble Men* should now take Possession of them; and that they should take Possession too, for this *sole Reason*, (for he has produced no other) *because they wish, and desire to possess them.*

Pray, Gentlemen, permit me to inform you, that these Honours he *so wantonly presumes* to direct the Disposal of, are no less than your natural Rights and Privileges; that they are Honours *you alone* can dispose of; nay, that *your own Disposal* of them is *limited* by the Laws of your Country: That, if you become supple and pliant enough to suffer yourselves to be *illegally influenced*, be it by P---rs, by Bribery, or by any other Species of Corruption, you are still equally culpable; are *equally perjured*, and equally chargeable with having acted a *Part injurious*, not only to yourselves, and to that particular County from which you enjoy your Freeholds, but you are also
guilty

guilty of the *highest Transgression* towards the Kingdom in general.

You see, Gentlemen, every private, and every publick Consideration, *at the present*, demand your *most serious* Attention, and call aloud on you to exert a true old British Conduct and Resolution: Act therefore like Englishmen, and as Freeholders of that County, which has *for Years* so wisely and so resolutely been *tenacious of her Privileges*.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient humble Servant,

A Friend and Freeholder.

7/168

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A-B

to wit: and to relieve them from
of that Council, which has for a year
the Establishment, and as Fischhofers
and and Revolution. All therefore
not to exist a true old British Con-
stitution, and call aloud on
them to do so, demand your way
vote, and every publick Conscience-
You will be on every pri-
marily the Revolution in general.

2. 11. 1942

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